

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A work attracting apparatus for attracting work being transported in a transportation direction at a transportation speed; the apparatus comprising:

a work attraction section for attracting ~~[[a]]~~ the work being transported;

a movement section that moves said work attraction section along a transportation direction of said work;

a work detector that detects said work being transported ~~[[at]]~~ to a predetermined position along the transportation direction and thereupon outputs a detection signal; and

a controller operatively connected to said work attraction section, said movement section, and said work detector; ~~that, when~~

wherein, upon said controller receiving said detection signal, said controller controls said movement section to move said work attraction section along the transportation direction at the transportation speed, so as to move together with said work being transported from the predetermined position, and

said controller makes said work attraction section operate while being moved along the transportation direction, from the predetermined position.

2. (currently amended): The work attracting apparatus according claim 1, wherein said work attraction section ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a Bernoulli chuck.

3. (currently amended): A work attracting apparatus for attracting work being transported in a transportation direction at a transportation speed; the apparatus comprising:

a work attraction section for attracting ~~[[a]]~~ the work being transported;

a work detector that detects said work being transported ~~[[at]]~~ to a predetermined position and thereupon outputs a detection signal;

a work pushing-up portion that applies pressure to a predetermined part of said work to displace said work in a predetermined amount in an attraction direction; and

a controller operatively connected to said work attraction section, said work detector, and said work pushing-up portion; that, when

wherein, upon said controller receiving said detection signal, said controller makes said work pushing-up portion operate to displace said work in the predetermined amount in the attraction direction.

4. (currently amended): The work attracting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said work attraction section ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a Bernoulli chuck.

5. (currently amended): A work attraction method, for attracting work being transported in a transportation direction at a transportation speed; the method comprising:

making a work attraction section stand by at a predetermined position for attracting ~~[[a]]~~ the work being transported;

detecting said work being transported ~~which arrived at~~ to said predetermined position;

moving said work attraction section at a same speed as ~~transporting~~ the transportation speed of said work along the transportation direction of said work for a predetermined time, for making said work attraction section attract ~~[[ing]]~~ said work during said predetermined time.

6. (original): The work attraction method according to claim 5, wherein said work attraction section attracts said work by using negative pressure based on the Bernoulli principle.

7. (currently amended): A work attraction method, for attracting work being transported in a transportation direction at a transportation speed; the method comprising:

making a work attraction section stand by at a predetermined position for attracting ~~the~~ [[a]] the work being transported;

detecting said work being transported ~~which arrived at~~ to said predetermined position;

~~pressuring~~ pressing the work toward said predetermined position of said work and displacing said work ~~toward a~~ in an attraction direction, in a predetermined amount, ~~for accelerating the attraction of said work.~~

8. (original): The work attraction method according to claim 7, wherein said work attraction section attracts said work by using negative pressure based on the Bernoulli principle.

9. (new): The work attracting apparatus according claim 1, wherein said controller moves said work attraction section, in a direction generally perpendicular to the transportation direction, toward the work such that said work attraction section begins to attract the work from the predetermined position along the transportation direction.

10. (new): The work attracting apparatus according claim 3, wherein the attraction direction is generally perpendicular to the transportation direction.